

OBITUARY—LINDSAY JAMES PEET 1939–2012

Lindsay Peet, geologist, real estate manager and historian died on 26 September 2012 at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. For the past four and a half years Lindsay battled Guillan-Barré syndrome and its side-effects that left him confined to a wheelchair.

Lindsay was educated at Hale School and the University of Western Australia where he obtained his BSc in geology. Initially he worked as a geologist in industry and subsequently joined the Geological Survey of Western Australia in 1967 as a hydrogeologist. He had started research on the fossils of the Permian Mingenew Formation as a Masters project but the call of family and the family business took him away from geology, although he retained his fellowship of the Geological Society of London. He joined the real estate firm of Peet & Company Limited and took a Diploma in Valuation and a Diploma in Real Estate Management. However, he retained his interest in scientific activities and was a Council member of the Royal Society of Western Australia from 1971 to 1984. He was a Geoscience Foundation Donor to the School of Earth and Environment at his alma mater.

In 1985 the firm of Peet merged and expanded and Lindsay left to concentrate on his love of history. After obtaining a Graduate Diploma in Applied Heritage Studies from Curtin University he became a military historian and specialist defence heritage consultant. He continued in this path for the rest of his life.

As a professional historian, Lindsay's interests ranged widely from the history of real estate development in Western Australia to the conservation of the State's defence heritage with a particular interest in military aviation. He wrote numerous academic papers, chapters and articles on Western Australian history and heritage. His research on the Kalumburu war diary involved visiting the monastery at New Norcia and he became an active and much valued Friend of New Norcia and maintained his friendship with the monks there, last visiting them only three weeks before his death.

He was active on many committees including Chairman of the Defence Heritage Committee of the National Trust (WA) and honorary Assistant Curator (Historical Aviation Research) at the RAAF Aviation Museum at Bull Creek. He was a Committee Member of the Friends of Battye Library, a member of the National Trust (WA) and the Royal Western Australian Historical Society. He also held close ties with, and was Vice President of, the Professional Historians Association (WA).

Lindsay was a passionate advocate for the preservation of Western Australian historical material, and a great friend, generous supporter, and contributor to the State's heritage collections. Over many years he enabled the purchase of important and valuable collections of original and rare material. He also contributed enormously to the State Library's published



works and map collections. In April 2012 he was made a Fellow of the Library Board in recognition of his efforts and contribution to the recording, collection and preservation of Western Australia's history.

Lindsay is survived by his wife Laurel and son Julian.

*(Tony Cockbain with the assistance of
Margaret Triffitt and Rowena Putland)*